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## **Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 4, 8, 19 and 27. Please add new claims 31 and 32 as follows:

1		1.	(origin	nal)	A communication system comprising:		
2		an IP-enabled communication network;					
3		at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the					
4	remote site con	nprisir	ıg:				
5			(a)	ар	lurality of subscribers,		
6			(b)	a s	witch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,		
7			(c)	at 1	least one multi-line hunt group connected to the		
8				swi	tch, and		
9			(ď)	a∖g	ateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and		
10.	**	<u> </u>		the	communication network; and		
11		at least	one se	rvice	e site connected to the communication network, the		
12	service site con	nprisin	ıg:				
13			(e)	a se	ervice platform providing voice services;		
14			(f)	a sv	witch connected to the service platform;		
15			(g)	at 1	east one multi-line hunt group connected to the		
16				swi	tch, and		
17			(h)	a g	ateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and		
18				the	communication network.		
1		2.			A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the		
2	service platform	n com	orises a	voi	cemail platform.		
1		3.	(origin	al)	A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the		
2					fied messaging platform.		
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I	4. (canceled)
1	5. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2	communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).
1	6. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2	communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).
1	7. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the
2	communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).
1	8. (canceled)
1	9. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each
2	multi-line hunt group comprises:
3	a plurality of voice communication lines; and
4	at least one signaling line carrying signaling data.
1	10. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein
2	each gateway converts voice received over communication lines and signaling data
3	received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the communication
4	network.
1	11. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each
2	gateway converts line signaling protocols into a format acceptable by the
3	communication network and passes the converted line signaling protocols to at least
4	one service site.

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1	12.	(original)	A comm	unication	system a	as in clair	n 9 wh	erein ea	ach
2	gateway implements	a tunneling	scheme	with at lea	ast one g	gateway	at a difi	ferent s	site
3	to exchange signaling	data.							

- 13. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication network bandwidth.
- (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each 14. gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the communication network.
  - 15. (original) A communication system for transmitting audible messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:
- 3 a locality of subscriber units;

a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least one signaling line carrying signaling data; and

a gateway in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the gateway converting voice information received over each communication line and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the communication network.

- 16. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the gateway formats data for voice over IP (VoIP).
- 1 17. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the 2 gateway formats data for voice over frame relay network (VoFR).

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1	18. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the
2	gateway formats data for voice over ATM (VoATM).
1	19. (canceled)
1	20. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein th
2	gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different sit
3	to exchange signaling data.
1	21. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein th
2	gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communicatio
3	network bandwidth.
1	22. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein th
2	gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across th
3	communication network.
1	23. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enable
2	communication network comprising:
3	receiving information from at least one of a plurality of subscribers
4	determining at least one of a plurality of voice communication line
5	and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group to carry the received
6	information and associated signaling;
7	formatting information on each of the voice communication lines and
8	signaling lines into a format compatible with the communication network; and
9	sending the formatted information over the communication network
1	24. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled
2	communication network as in claim 23 further comprising:
3	receiving the formatted information over the communication network

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4 reformatting the converted information back into the original format 5 for transmission over at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group; and 6 7 sending the reformatted information over a multi-line hunt group. 1 25. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled 2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent 3 to a service platform comprising a voicemail platform. 1 26. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled 2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent 3 to a service platform comprising a unified messaging platform. 1 27. (canceled) 1 28. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled 2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries 3 voice over IP (VoIP). 1 29. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled 2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries 3 voice over frame relay (VoFR). 1 30. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled 2 communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries 3 voice over ATM (VoATM). 1 31. (new) A communication system comprising: 2 an IP-enabled communication network;

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3 at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the 4 remote site comprising: 5 a plurality of subscribers, (a) 6 (b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers. 7 (c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the 8 switch, and at least one wide area network access device 9 (d) 10 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the 11 communication network; and 12 at least one service site connected to the communication network, the 13 service site comprising: 14 (e) a service platform providing voice services; 15 (f) a switch connected to the service platform; 16 (g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the 17 switch, and \_\_\_\_ 18 (h) at least one wide area network access device 19 interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the 20 communication network. 1 32. A communication system for transmitting audible 2 messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising: 3 a locality of subscriber units; 4 a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic 5 outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each 6 multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least 7 one signaling line carrying signaling data; and 8 at least one wide area network access device in communication with 9 each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the wide area network 10 access device converting voice information received over each communication line

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and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by

the communication network.